HERITAGE DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT
for

INTERNAL ALTERATIONS
(KITCHEN, UTILITY ROOM & PANTRY)

at
STURFORD MEAD,
CORSLEY, WILTS

September 2023

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APPLICANTS:

Mr Harcourt Gough
Sturford Mead
Corsley
Wiltshire
BA12 7QT

AGENT:

Chedburn Codd
Glove Factory Studios
1 Brook Lane
Holt
Bradford on Avon
Wiltshire
BA14 6RL

SITE:

Sturford Mead,
Corsley
Wiltshire
BA12 7QT

PROJECT:

Internal alterations to kitchen, utility room and pantry within the main house.

THIS APPLICATION:

This application should be read in conjunction with the drawings and photographs provided.

DRAWINGS:

The following drawings are provided as part of the application:

2224/08	Floor Plans As Existing
2224/09	External Elevations As Existing
2224/10a	Kitchen Floor Plan As Existing
2224/11	Kitchen Internal Elevations As Existing
2224/12a	Kitchen Internal Elevations As Existing
2226/15d	Kitchen Floor Plan As Proposed
2226/16e	Kitchen Internal Elevations As Proposed
2226/17d	Kitchen Internal Elevations As Proposed
2224/18	Floor Plans As Proposed
2224/19	External Elevations As Proposed

HERTIAGE STATEMENT

Sturford Mead, built in 1820 for the owner of the local dye works, H.A Fussel, was designed by the Bath architect, John Pinch the Elder (1770-1825). Set in 7 areas of gardens , with lake and woodlands bordering the Longleat Estate, the brick built house is faced with local Bath stone is symmetrical in plan and built in the Greek Revival style. John Pinch, aided latterly by his son John Pinch the younger (1796-1849), undertook many projects in the vicinity, including nearby Corsley House, on which Sturford Mead is obviously modelled.

Sir Nikolas Pevsner, in his "Buildings of England" Series (Wiltshire) describes Corsley House as follows:

> "Corsley House, ¾ m.s. Grecian. Begun in 1814 (VCH). Five bays, with three-bay pediment. Greek Doric porch of unusual shape. Vertical bands with incised (Soanian) ornament along the corners. Bow window round the corner. Staircase with cast-iron handrails. Grecian iron garden railings and gates."

The above description, apart from the portico and unusual porch, aptly describes Sturford Mead. Strangely, Sturford Mead itself is not mentioned in the series.

The main house, whose front façade faces southeast in aspect, is set on three floors: the lowest being a semi-basement originally used as servants quarters to the family house above. Gardens encompass the house, with more formal gardens stretching in both directions from the western corner. The original house consisted of an entrance lobby and main staircase hall set centrally to the front façade, with reception rooms wrapping around to the south, west and north. Those rooms on the north corner were similar in style and materials, and built in the 1880's, it incorporated kitchen, nursery, relaxation and further living accommodation thought necessary for the emerging Victorian family life. It is assumed that the squared bay extension to the Drawing room was added at this time, although the actual opening sections and fixed lights appear to be later still – perhaps part of the 1930's work to come. The windows and doors to the squared bay window were replaced in 2009.

Some 30 years earlier, due to the collapse of the wool trade in the area, the house had been put up for sale, becoming part of the Longleat estate in 1854. From 1897 until the 1930's, the house was leased to various tenants before becoming the home of Lord Weymouth (later 6th Marquis of Bath) and his family during the War years. During this time the house was further extended to the west, adding a number of ancillary rooms on both floors, as well as bathrooms, larder and game room.

The alterations made to the original sash windows in the Library and Dining room were also undertaken during this latter period of work. In each room, one window was replaced by a set of inward-opening French doors, providing direct access to the newly arranged formal gardens on the south & west sides – these being laid out by the designer, Russell Page, while he worked at Longleat just before the war.

The National Monuments Record hold a set of black & white prints from the 'Country Life print collection' c.1949, showing the house towards the end of Lord Weymouth's residency. These show the French doors of the dining room in-situ, together with the original fireplace surround. It is said that the Marquis took the original to Longleat House when he moved. The fire surround now in situ, is an 18th C or early 19th C antique marble fire surround installed in 2009.

Later, in the 1970's, while the house was in the ownership of Sir Lees Mayall, the original underfloor heating system of hot water pipes & 'batteries' was removed, in favour of the modern column radiators now in evidence.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The existing kitchen is located to the east end of the house with separate adjoining pantry and utility room. The current kitchen is believed to have been installed in the mid to late 20th Century with modern slate floor tiling throughout the kitchen and pantry and natural blue Lias stone slabs within the utility room. There is a large aga within the kitchen which also serves heating pipework and radiators to the north end of the main house.

There is a large three bay sash window within the kitchen and small sash windows located within the pantry and utility room. There is a large plain ceiling to the kitchen, which requires repair/ replacement and appears to have been lowered *(due to sitting lower than the head of the three-bay window).*

There is an existing stone surround alcove adjacent to the existing aga with a timber trim to the head and timber shelving inside. Recent investigation works *(to include removal of small sections of plaster only)* revealed the original low height arched fireplace opening to the rear of the existing aga, with brick walling and metal plate lintel.

The kitchen currently functions as one of the main hubs of the house to include a central large dining table and general house-keeping tasks within the utility room. The existing kitchen, utility room and pantry areas are very tired and the modern additions do not reflect the outstanding form and style to all other areas of the house.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The owner's wish to undertake the following alterations to the kitchen areas at Sturford Mead:

<u>Removal</u>

- The removal of the existing aga within the kitchen, including associated heating pipework serving the north end of the property.
- The removal of the existing kitchen units, built in cupboards, pantry worktop unit, utility room Belfast sink and base and shelving to alcove.
- The removal of the modern slate floor tiling within the kitchen, pantry and step within the utility room.
- The removal of the timber panelled door between the kitchen and utility room.

<u>Proposed</u>

- Install new fitted kitchen units throughout the kitchen, utility room and pantry to include high quality joinery, granite worktops and upstands.
- Open up and reinstate existing fireplace (to rear of existing aga), raising of the lintel height (to match existing form and shallow arch) and install new dressed stone surround.
- Remove existing kitchen ceiling and expose ceiling/ floor beams above and insert new lath and plaster ceilings between.
- Raise floor level within utility room (to reduce the large step between up into the kitchen) to include a new timber floor structure (over the existing stone flooring). New timber floor structure to also house new services for relocated appliances.
- Install new cupboards and panelling around kitchen entrance door to match style of existing cupboards.
- Install new electric underfloor heating throughout the kitchen and utility room with new natural stone floor slabs. New stone flooring to continue through the pantry (with no underfloor heating).

Cont.

- Installation of new painted timber dado panelling within the utility room to hide existing and new surface mounted services (style to match existing adjacent cupboards).
- Extend existing cupboard within the utility room down to floor level to match existing adjacent cupboard.
- Replacement of existing electrical fittings within the kitchen, utility area and pantry to include new downlights, pendants, switches and sockets.

Retaining and reinstating the original features is the main objective for this building, the proposals are to sensitively restore and refurbish the kitchen areas and provide a traditional and functional layout, whilst also keeping up with modern day living and hosting for the large property.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Significance:	Medium – The building is **Grade II** listed with modern internal fittings and finishes within the kitchen areas. Where original features are present, these are to be sensitively restored and refurbished.
Main Interventions:	Opening up Original Fireplace An original fireplace opening has been uncovered through careful investigations. This is to be re-opened, lined and new aga inserted within, including a new stone surround. Remove of Ceiling Existing ceiling to be removed and raised to expose timber ceiling/ floor beams and new lath and plaster ceilings introduced between. Raised Utility Floor New timber floor structure to be constructed over the existing stone slabs to reduce the floor level/ step up into the kitchen. New stone flooring to be laid over (to match new stone flooring proposed within the kitchen and pantry areas). New Stone Flooring New natural stone flooring to be laid throughout the Kitchen, utility room and pantry, incorporating electric underfloor heating *(kitchen and utility only).* New stone flooring to replace existing modern slate tiles.
Effect/impact of change:	The proposed alterations have been designed to have minimal impact upon on the fabric of the listed building and have been designed to be a positive enhancement, including the reinstating original features. The proposals will dramatically improve the use of the kitchen and dining hub, whilst also meeting modern day living.

PLANNING HISTORY

Sturford Mead has undergone various planning and listed building consent applications over past years, below are the approved applications:

- On the 23rd May 2002 Listed Building Consent was obtained for 'provision of handrail to existing external steps, reinstatement of window joinery and glazing to kitchen' (Application Reference: W/02/00507/LBC).

Cont.

- On the 20th April 2005 Listed Building Consent was obtained to 'carry out refurbishment of parts of the slate roof, lead work, and guttering' (Application Reference: W/05/00377/LBC).

- On the 28th November 2008 Listed Building Consent was obtained for 'replacement of existing modern French doors on south and west elevations' (Application Reference: W/08/02907/LBC).

- On the 15th April 2010 Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent was obtained for 'removal of existing entrance gates, construction of new stone gate piers, gates and wing walls' (Application Reference: W/10/00438/FUL and W/10/00439/LBC).

- On the 11th June 2010 Planning Permission was granted for 'revised landscaping including Ha Ha to western boundary' (Application Reference: W/10/01171/FUL).

- On the 26th January 2011 Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent was obtained for 'removal of existing entrance gates, construction of new stone gate piers, gates' (Application References: W/10/03856/FUL and W/10/03857/LBC).

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Design & Layout

The proposed design and layout has been sympathetic to the original building with minimal disturbance to the historic fabric. The proposed layout vastly improves the use and function of the kitchen and adjoining rooms.

Scale

The scale of the proposed works are minimal and all within the envelope of the building.

Appearance

The exterior appearance of the building will remain unchanged, other than the introduction of 3no. new external vents for an extract vent and 2no. floor vents for the new raised floor. The interior appearance of the kitchen will be dramatically improved, forming a traditional style, with high quality fittings and finishes. The new stone surround to the re-opened fireplace will match the detailing and stone to the existing adjacent surround to reinstate the kitchens original appearance.

Access

The access to Sturford Mead and general circulation around the property will remain unchanged.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1:
Listing Record

Appendix 2
Images As Existing

APPENDIX 1:

Listing Record



IoE Number:	313724
Location:	STURFORD MEAD, FROME ROAD (south side) CORSLEY, WEST WILTSHIRE, WILTSHIRE
Photographer:	N/A
Date Photographed:	N/A
Date listed:	05 November 1987
Date of last amendment:	05 November 1987
Grade	II

CORSLEY FROME ROAD

ST 84 Sii

(south side)

10/86 Sturford Mead

II

CORSLEYFROME ROADST 84 Sii(south side)10/86Sturford Mead II
Detached house. Circa 1820 for a Mr. Fussell. Limestone ashlar, Welsh slate hipped roof, stone stacks with moulded cappings. Two- storey, 5-window front; centre bay breaks forward. Central portico with 4 fluted columns and low pediment, 5-panel inner door with margin-pane sidelights and transom light, two 15-pane sashes either side. Plat band to first floor, five 12-pane sashes, deep eaves on brackets. Left return has single-storey bow with 15-pane sashes and French windows, later C19 square bay with rounded corners and French windows to left, first floor has sashes, lead rainwater goods. Rear has 15-pane sashes to ground floor, 12-pane sashes to first floor. Rear wing, said to be early C20, in similar style, but with casements facing garden. Attached to right of main front is rubblestone service wing with sashes. Interior: Entrance hall has segmental archway with fanlight leading to stairhall; open well stone stairs with cast-iron balustrade, moulded wreathed handrail; in similar style to stairs at Corsley House (q.v.), toplit. Main rooms have marble fireplaces, some probably reset during occupancy of Lord Bath during 1950's, 4- panelled doors in moulded architraves with rosettes. Likely that same architect designed this house and the rebuilding of Corsley House.

APPENDIX 2

Images As Existing



Image 1 – View of the Kitchen – As Existing



Image 2 – View of the Kitchen – As Existing

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Historic Building Consultants

Sturford Mead
Corsley

Images 1 & 2

2226



Image 3 – View of the Kitchen – As Existing



Image 4 – View of the Kitchen – As Existing

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CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS
Historic Building Consultants

Sturford Mead
Corsley

Images 3 & 4

2226



Image 5 – View of the Pantry – As Existing



Image 6 – View of the Pantry – As Existing

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CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS
Historic Building Consultants

Sturford Mead
Corsley

Images 5 & 6

2226



Image 7 – View of the Utility Room – As Existing



Image 8 – View of the Utility Room – As Existing

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CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS
Historic Building Consultants

Sturford Mead
Corsley

Images 7 & 8

2226



Image 9 – View of the Kitchen Window (North Elevation) – As Existing



Image 10 – View of the Utility Room Window (North Elevation) – As Existing

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Corsley

Images 9 & 10

2226